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Monica P. Felder

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10/16/2006

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EXAMINER

FABER, DAVID

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 10/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/605,904

Applicant(s)

FELDER ET AL.

Examiner

David Faber

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 14-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 30 August 2006.
2. In the amendment, Claims 1, 14, 21, 26, and 32 have been amended. Claim 13 has been cancelled by the Applicant.
3. The rejection of Claims 1-3, 7-15, 18-20, 26 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramaley et al (US Patent #6,931,592, filed 5/22/2000) in further view of Ehrman et al (US Patent #6,610,103, patented 8/26/2003) has been withdrawn necessitated by the amendment. The rejection of Claims 4-5, 16-17, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramaley et al in further view of Ehrman et al in further view of Microsoft (Microsoft, "Release Notes for Windows XP Service Pack 1 and Service Park 1a," published 9/9/2003) has been withdrawn necessitated by the amendment. The rejection of Claims 6, 21-22, and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramaley et al in further view of Ehrman et al in further in view of Online Training Solutions, Inc (Online Training Solutions, Inc, "Microsoft Office Word 2003 Step By Step," published 9/24/2003) has been withdrawn necessitated by the amendment. The rejection of Claims 23-25, and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramaley et al in further view of Ehrman et al in further in view of Online Training Solutions, Inc in further view of Microsoft has been withdrawn necessitated by the amendment.
4. Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1, 14, 21, 26, and 32 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-3, 7-12, 14-15, 18-20, 26, and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moody et al (US Patent #5,890,177, patented 3/30/1999) in further view of Plantz et al (US Patent #6,088,702) in further view of Ehrman et al (US Patent #6,610,103, patented 8/26/2003).

As per independent Claim 1, Moody et al discloses a method comprising:

- assigning at least one book of a plurality of books to each of a plurality of writers as an owner of the at least one book by a user on a system to manage documentation, (FIG 2A, Abstract, lines 1-3; Column 4, lines 32-40: The author sends each editor a separate copy of the document wherein each editor owns that copy of the document wherein the purpose of the editor is to review and edit the document. In addition, since a book is made of a document or multiple documents, a document is considered a book.)
- assigning a predetermined number of line items to each writer by the user on the system to manage documentation; (Abstract, lines 1-3 – a completed document contains a predetermined number of line items. These predetermined line items are sent to multiple editors.)

- reviewing and investigating each assigned line item; and (Abstract, lines 3-5 – editing a document thoroughly involves reviewing and investigating each line)
- performing any changes related to each assigned line item across all affected books by the writer assigned the line item. (Abstract, lines 3-5 – Each editor edits the lines in the document thus are performing changes. In addition, since a book is made of a document or multiple documents, a document is considered a book.)

However, Moody et al fails to specifically disclose assigning a number of line items ... to prevent the owner of each from having to review all of the line items to determine which line items affect the owner's at least one book. However, Plantz et al discloses a group publishing system wherein the administrator has the ability to assign chapters to authors (Column 11, lines 29-30) wherein the author has the ability to edit sections (column 9, lines 45-48) In addition, editors are assigned chapters to be reviewed (FIG 10, 190-193, 196; FIG 11; Column 10, lines 40-42).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modified Moody et al's method of an author sending editors their own copy of the document for edit/review with Plantz et al ability for administrators to assign chapters to authors to be edited since it would have provided permitting coordinated publishing, assembly, and administration of texts by a number of authors and editors in a collaborative project.

Furthermore, Moody et al and Plantz et al fail specifically disclose assigning a predetermined number of line items ... to prevent the owner of each from having to

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review all of the line items to determine which line items affect the owner's at least one book. However, it was well-known to one of ordinary skill in the art that assigning chapters to an author is assigning a predetermined number of line items for an author to edit/review since each chapter consists of a predetermined number of lines. Thus, based on the rejection by Moody et al and Plantz et al and the rationale incorporated, a user (administrator) may assign multiple chapters, that may make up a book, for review to a group of authors/editors wherein the administrator may assigns each author a different chapter for review.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modified Moody et al's method of an author sending editors their own copy of the document for edit/review and Plantz et al ability for administrators to assign chapters to authors to be edited with the disclosure of assigning chapters by a administrator, wherein the chapters each contain a predetermined number of line items, since it would have provided the benefit of assigning work that eliminates the use of repetition reviewing and lessening the time and performance cost by avoiding more than one author or editor reviewing the same number of line items.

However, Moody et al and Plantz et al fails to specifically discloses each line item corresponds to a change in a software product and each of the plurality of books include documentation for a software product. However, Ehrman et al discloses informational text describing the updates and fixes and their effect on the base software product, as well providing updates and corrections to the release information. (Column 4, lines 1-4)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's

invention to modified Moody et al's method of sending a predetermined number of line items in a document to have the line items and Plantz et al ability for administrators to assign chapters to authors to be edited include Ehrman et al's content of informational text describing updates and fixes on the base software product since it would have provided the benefit of providing access to the user documentation of information describing the updates and effects of the updated base software product.

As per dependent Claim 2, Claim 2 recites similar limitations as in Claim 1 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al discloses a method further comprising:

- electronically accessing each affected book to perform any changes (Column 4, lines 37-42 – the author and editors use a word progressing program to edit their document, thus each is electronically accessing it.)

As per dependent Claim 3, Claim 3 recites similar limitations as in Claim 1 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al disclose a method:

each change is performed across all affected books regardless of book ownership. (Column 4, line 10-13 – Each editor who edited the copy of the original document edited it regardless of not actually owning the original document.)

As per dependent Claim 7, Moody et al discloses a method further comprising:

- sending a notice in response to completion of any changes related to each line item. (Column 4, lines 46-51 – the editor responds by means of email or an electronic transmission with the edited document on the completion of editing the document.)

As per dependent Claim 8, Claim 8 recites similar limitations as in Claim 1 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al discloses a method further comprising:

- sending a notice in response to completion of any changes related to all assigned line item. (Column 4, lines 46-51 – the editor responds by means of email or an electronic transmission with the edited document on the completion of editing the document.)

As per dependent Claim 9, Claim 9 recites similar limitations as in Claim 1 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al discloses a method further comprising:

- reviewing any changes related to each line item across all books. (Abstract, lines 5-11 – The author reviews any changes from the edits the editors made to the document.)

As per dependent Claim 10, Moody et al discloses a method further comprising:

- closing each line item in response to review and approval of all changes related to the line item. (Column 6, line 66 – Column 7, line 20 – The author reviews the changes the editors provided and approves which changes will be included in the final document. After each edit or line change is approved of reviewing, each is finished, or closed, from being inspected of forming the final document.)

As per dependent Claim 11, Claim 11 recites similar limitations as in Claim 1 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al discloses a method further comprising:

- performing a whole book inspection in response to closing all line items associated with the book. (Column 6, line 66 – Column 7, line 20 – During the reviewing and approving the changes from the editors, it is inherent that the author is inspecting of the changes that were added, approving the changes, and including the approved changes to add to the original document which in the end would be called the final document when completed.)

As per dependent Claim 12, Claim 12 recites similar limitations as in Claim 1 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al fails to specifically disclose correcting any structural, retrieval or usability problems associated with each book. However, Moody et al does disclose that other editors review the original document, then return the changes to the author. Then the author reviews and approves all the

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changes submitted by the editors. It was well-known to one of the ordinary skill in the art that when the editors was reviewing the document and when the author was reviewing the changes by the editors that each were correcting any structural, retrieval or usability problems in the document. For example, if the reviewer sees the original document failed to indent the beginning of a new paragraph, then the reviewer would have fixed the document by indenting the first line of the paragraph, thus fixing a structural problem.

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Moody et al's method with correcting any structural, retrieval or usability problems since it would have allowed a user to produce a well-structured, formal document.

As per independent Claim 14, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in Claim 1 and is similarly rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al discloses a method comprising:

- reviewing any changes for each line item across all books; and (Abstract, lines 5-11 – The author reviews any changes from the edits the editors made to the document.)
- closing each line item in response to review and approval of all changes related to the line item across all books. (Column 6, line 66 – Column 7, line 20 – The author reviews the changes the editors provided and approves which changes will be included in the final document. After each edit or line

change is approved of reviewing, each is finished, or closed, from being inspected of forming the final document.)

As per dependent Claim 15, Claim 15 recites similar limitations as in Claim 3 and is rejected under rationale.

As per dependent Claim 18, Claim 18 recites similar limitations as in Claim 7 and is rejected under rationale.

As per dependent Claim 19, Claim 19 recites similar limitations as in Claim 9 and is rejected under rationale.

As per dependent Claim 20, Claim 20 recites similar limitations as in Claim 11 and is rejected under rationale.

As per independent Claim 26, Claim 26 recites similar limitations as in Claim 1 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al discloses a method further comprising:

- a system memory to store line item assignments; (Column 3, lines 21-23)
- at least one book storable on the system memory, and (Column 3, lines 21-23 – Moody et al discloses memory for temporary storage of information, thus a document has the ability to be stored in temporary storage memory.)
- means for accessing and performing any changes related to each line item across all affected books. (It is inherent that one of the ordinary skill in the art is able to retrieve the document from memory or storage to perform any changes when necessary.)

As per dependent Claim 30, Claim 30 recites similar limitations as in Claim 7 and is rejected under rationale.

As per dependent Claim 31, Claim 31 recites similar limitations as in Claim 10 and is rejected under rationale.

7. Claim 4-5, 16-17, and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moody et al (US Patent #5,890,177, patented 3/30/1999) in further view of Plantz et al (US Patent #6,088,702) in further view of Ehrman et al (US Patent #6,610,103, patented 8/26/2003) in further in view of (Microsoft, "Release Notes for Windows XP Service Pack 1 and Service Park 1a," published 9/9/2003).

As per dependent Claims 4 and 5, Claims 4 and 5 recites similar limitations as in Claim 1 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al discloses a method further comprising:

- storing the document in a selected location in a memory. (Column 3, lines 21-23, 31-39 and Column 7, lines 55-58 – Moody et al discloses memory for permanent storage of information, e.g. a document, thus one has the ability to store a document in memory. In addition, Moody et al disclosed different locations of storage, i.e. diskette, where information, such as a document, is stored.)

However, Moody et al, Plantz et al, and Ehrman et al fail to specifically disclose preparing a document that includes a description for each change for each book, and a pointer associated with each description of each change to link to a current version of the affected book. However, Microsoft discloses a release notes document that lists the

changes of its Windows XP Service Pack 1 update. (Microsoft, pages 1-3) In addition, each change has an ID that is hyperlinked pointing to a separate document associated with each description of the change to the current version. (Microsoft, pages 1-3)

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have modified Moody et al's document method, Plantz et al's ability for administrators to assign chapters to authors to be edited and Ehrman et al's content of informational text describing updates and fixes on the base software product with Microsoft's method of a document release notes since it would have allowed the user obtain information about the updated version and the changes that were addressed.

As per dependent Claims 16 and 17, Claims 16 and 17 recite similar limitations as in Claim 4 and 5 and is rejected under rationale.

As per dependent Claims 27-29, the applicant recites the system for performing the method of Claims 4 and 5. Therefore, Claims 27-29 are similarly rejected under rationale.

8. Claims 6, 21-22, and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moody et al (US Patent #5,890,177, patented 3/30/1999) in further view of Plantz et al (US Patent #6,088,702) in further view of Ehrman et al (US Patent #6,610,103, patented 8/26/2003) in further in view of (Online Training Solutions, Inc, "Microsoft Office Word 2003 Step By Step," published 9/24/2003).

As per dependent Claim 6, Claims 6 recites similar limitations as in Claim 1 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al, Plantz et al, and Ehrman et al fail to specifically disclose tracking line items and changes related to the line items. However, Online Training Solutions, Inc. discloses a method in Microsoft Word that tracks changes and which lines the changes occur on. (Pg 1-2, Fig 1) Figure 1 discloses text overwritten and has a comment balloon pop up to indicate what text was just overwritten. The comment balloon points to the line that was changed. In addition, it would have been well-known to one of the ordinary skill in the art to use the line number indicator located within the status bar in Microsoft Word to determine which line was change once the balloon indicator appeared indicating the change.

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have modified Moody et al's document method, Plantz et al ability for administrators to assign chapters to authors to be edited and Ehrman et al's content of informational text describing updates and fixes on the base software product with Online Training Solution, Inc's disclosure since it would have allowed a user to be able to make revisions to a document without losing the original text.

As per independent Claim 21, Claim 21 recites similar limitations as in Claims 1 and 6 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al discloses a system comprising:

- a processor to track each line item, wherein a predetermined number of line item are assigned to each writer; and

Based on the rejection of tracking line items and changes in Claim 6, and the rationale incorporated within, Moody et al discloses a processor (Figure 1, block 105) that runs the operating system (Column 3, lines 63-65) which inherently processes the tracking feature in a word processing program. In addition, Moody discloses a completed document sent to editors (Abstract, lines 1-3), whereby a complete document is a predetermined number of line items.

- a system memory associated with the processor to store a plurality of books, each of the plurality of books being accessible to perform any changes related to each line item effecting any of the plurality of books.

(Column 3, lines 19-27 – The system includes memory that is connected to the processor by a bus. In addition, Column 3, lines 31-39, Moody et al discloses a list of mass storage devices in which data is stored. One of the ordinary skill in the art is able to retrieve the book from memory or storage to perform any changes. In addition, since a book is made up consisting a document or multiple documents, a document is considered a book.)

As per dependent Claim 22, Moody et al discloses a method further comprising:

- at least one input device to make changes related to any line items requiring such changes. (Column 3, lines 41-43 – A keyboard is usable to make changes to any line items requiring a change.)

As per independent Claim 32, Claims 32 recites similar limitations as in Claims 1 and 6 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al discloses a system comprising:

- tracking each line item; and (Refer to Claim 6 above for rejection)
- facilitating any changes related to each line item across each affected book.

(Abstract, lines 5-11 & Column 3, lines 41-56 – Numerous computer components are disclosed, e.g. the keyboard, enabling the author in reviewing any changes from the edits the editors made to the document and using a network to communicate between the editors and the author.)

As per dependent Claims 33, the applicant recites a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of Claims 8. Therefore, Claims 33 are similarly rejected under rationale.

9. Claims 23-25, and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moody et al (US Patent #5,890,177, patented 3/30/1999) in further view of Plantz et al (US Patent #6,088,702) in further view of Ehrman et al (US Patent #6,610,103, patented 8/26/2003) in further in view of Online Training Solutions, Inc (Online Training Solutions, Inc, "Microsoft Office Word 2003 Step By Step," published 9/24/2003) in further view of Microsoft (Microsoft, "Release Notes for Windows XP Service Pack 1 and Service Park 1a," published 9/9/2003).

As per dependent Claims 23-25, Claim 23-25 recites similar limitations as in Claims 21 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Moody et al discloses a method further comprising:

- stored the document in a selected location in a memory. (Column 3, lines 21-23, 31-39 and Column 7, lines 55-58 – Moody et al discloses memory for permanent storage of information, e.g. a document, thus one has the ability to store a document in memory. In addition, Moody et al disclosed different locations of storage, i.e. diskette, where information, such as a document, is stored.)

However, Moody et al, Plantz et al, Ehrman et al, and Online Training Solutions, Inc. both failed to specifically disclose preparing a document including a description for change for each book, and a pointer associated with each description of each change to link to a current version of the affected book. However, Microsoft discloses a release notes document that lists the changes of its Windows XP Service Pack 1 update. (Microsoft, pages 1-3) In addition, each change has an ID that is hyperlinked pointing to a separate document associated with each description of the change to the current version. (Microsoft, pages 1-3)

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Moody et al's method and Online Training Solutions, Inc's method with Microsoft method of document release notes since it would have allowed the user obtain information about the updated version and the changes that were addressed.

As per dependent Claims 34-35, the applicant recites a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of Claims 23-25. Therefore, Claims 34-35 are similarly rejected under Moody et al, Online Training Solutions, Inc. and Microsoft.

As per dependent Claims 36, the applicant recites a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of Claims 10. Therefore, Claims 36 are similarly rejected under Moody et al.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12, and 14-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

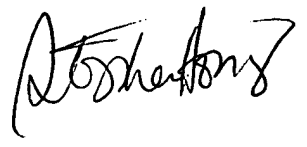
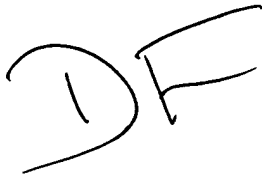
In regards to the arguments addressed by the Applicant referring to the new limitations of Claims 1-12, and 14-36 brought forth in the amendment has change the scope of the independent claims in regards assigning a predetermined number of line items to each writer by the user on the system to manage documentation to prevent the owner of each book from having to review all of the line items to determine which line items affect the owner's at least one book, has been viewed by the new grounds of rejection under Moody et al and Plantz et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Faber whose telephone number is 571-272-2751. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8am to 430pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong, can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David Faber
Patent Examiner
AU 2178



STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER